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A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE MEETING ON EAST TIMOR HELD IN LONDON AT THE CIIR ON JANUARY 12-13 1985

It was agreed at the start that the meeting was private. Detailed minutes of the discussion have not been taken, therefore, and journalists were not invited to attend.

It was agreed, however, that CIIR would prepare a brief report of the decisions which the participants took, and which involve action of one kind or another. The following summary is likely to be incomplete; we suggest that if there are omissions organisations should inform the other groups which participated (a list of the participants is attached) or write to CIIR.

At the start of the meeting, a message was received from Abilio Araujo of Fretilin, outlining the situation in East Timor and describing the attitude of Fretilin towards negotiations and towards the consultations which the UN Secretary General is promoting between Portugal and Indonesia.

Parliamentary Initiative

Lord Avebury has offered to send a declaration on East Timor to selected members of different national parliaments, and to members of the European parliament. The meeting agreed to support this proposal, and a draft of the declaration (which is enclosed) was approved by the meeting, subject to further amendment by Lord Avebury.

It was further agreed to follow these stages:
1. Organisations are to send a list of parliamentarians to whom Avebury should write by the end of January. When sending their lists, groups should separate members of the European parliament from national MP's and should name the person in their organisation who is responsible for working on this issue.
2. Groups who wish may send a further list of members of other national parliaments in, for example, Papua New Guinea, Francophone Africa, Brazil etc.
3. These lists should be sent to Carmel Budiarjo at Tapol.
4. Lord Avebury will undertake to send a copy of the declaration, at the beginning of February, to every member of parliament who is recommended by a group. In an explanatory letter, he will ask them to sign the declaration.
5. The explanatory letter will be written by Lord Avebury himself, unless he receives before January 25 a draft from one of the groups (for example, France) which is adapted to appeal to the particular expectations of parliamentarians in the country concerned.
6. Groups are then free, and are recommended, to lobby the parliamentarians they have listed, and any others they choose, using the declaration.
7. Groups may also lobby other organisations, if they wish (such as members of the church, trades unions etc): but this will be a separate initiative.
8. Signatures of parliamentarians should be sent to Carmel: groups are responsible for identifying clearly the correct names of those who sign and the political parties to which they belong.
9. In April, organisations will be told how many signatures have been received from each country by Carmel, so that they can respond as necessary.
10. The deadline for receiving signatures is May 1 1985.
11. The complete list of those who have signed will be collated in London and made public on or near June 1, hopefully in several countries simultaneously.

Note: There are countries in which there is no well-organised group working on East Timor, or in which we do not yet have good contacts with the East Timor groups. Any organisations which wishes to contact people in such countries -

such as Italy - is encouraged to do so. Lord Avebury, naturally, will only write to parliamentarians in such countries if they are recommended by a group.

Fretilin Conference in Lisbon

Luisa informed the meeting about Fretilin's plan to organise an international conference in Lisbon this year.
There is some doubt about the date. It seems that it will be impossible to organise the conference before June, and perhaps difficult even to do so before the next UN General Assembly.

It was agreed that solidarity groups should respond to any request from Fretilin after formal proposals have been sent to them.

During the discussion it was pointed out that public demonstrations of concern about East Timor could very usefully be organised in other European capitals, and Tapol in London and the Association de Solidarite in Paris offered to arrange conferences, provided they are given sufficient warning.

Support for work being done in Portugal

The year ahead is important because the willingness of the Portuguese government to uphold the issue of East Timor may depend upon the results of the Portuguese presidential elections at the end of the year.

It was agreed that European groups should inform the Portuguese of any initiatives they took; should arrange for journalists to ask questions about East Timor, when Portuguese personalities visit their countries; and should keep the Portuguese correspondents in their countries informed about their activity and about any correspondence they have with Portuguese politicians.

During the Presidential elections, the groups agreed to: raise the question of East Timor in their own countries; write to every presidential candidate asking him or her to support the issue firmly if elected.

CDPM and A Paz e Possivel agreed to send a complete list of the presidential candidates when this is published.

UN Commission on Human Rights, February 1985

Luisa and Michel Robert described the complex context in which the Commission will be examining East Timor in February.
They stressed that, under normal circumstances, East Timor should be debated in closed session, at which NGO's will not be permitted to speak. It is therefore important for as many groups as possible to show concern about the question, in order to persuade the Commission to debate the issue in open session.

It was agreed that each group would identify the person who will represent their government at the Commission, and send him or her information about the situation in East Timor. National respresentatives are usually diplomats or nominated officials.

CDPM and A Paz e Possivel undertook to send recent information, which they are collecting from newly-arrived refugees, to all the groups.

Groups agreed to find out which NGO's will be represented at the Commission, and keep them informed.

Where groups have influence in another country (for example, Portugal in Brazil), they agreed to send their representatives or contacts information, in order to influence that country's vote.

Adrien Claude Zoller will represent Pax Christi at the Commission. He has asked Justice & Peace in Holland to send someone to brief him, and the meeting agreed that Luisa Pereira should travel to Geneva to do this, her costs being supported by Dutch Justice & Peace.

Work with the Churches

The meeting agreed that it was important to develop awareness in the churches, and various lines of action were identified:

Catholic Church. National Bishops' conferences or Justice & Peace commissions should be encouraged to write letters to Mgr Belo supporting his defence of human rights. Useful documents for this work are: the Dutch Bishops' letter to Mgr Belo (refer to A Paz e Possivel or CIIR); a collection of church statements on East Timor produced by Justice et Paix in France.

The Brazilian Bishops' Conference has invited Mgr Da Costa Lopes to Brazil: CIIR agreed to follow up the invitation in Sao Paulo and CSI agreed to contact Mgr Hipolito about it.
In addition, the groups agreed to contact the following national churches: In Italy, Pax Christi through A Paz e Possivel and CSI; in Switzerland, Justice & Peace (Pius Hafner) through CSI and CIIR; in Belgium, Pro Mundi Vita and Justice & Peace, through CIIR; in Spain, Justice & Peace through CIIR; in Mozambique, the Bp of Nampula through A Paz e Possivel; in the Philippines, NASSA through CIIR.
CIIR also agreed to inquire, through contacts, about possibly influencing the Pontifical Justice & Peace Commission.

Protestant churches. A Paz e Possivel has begun work with Portuguese protestants. In addition the groups agreed to approach the following: in Geneva the WCC, through CSI; in Paris, CIMADE through Marie Therese of the French Association; in London, the British Council of Churches and Christian Aid through CIIR.
Liem of the Indonesia Committee agreed to give CIIR details of the inter-church group in Holland which is working on East Timor and West Papua.

As an aid in all this work, A Paz e Possivel will produce a short collection of church statements on East Timor.

The IGGI Conference, June 1985

Jan and Xavier outlined plans for the annual demonstration in Holland on the occasion of the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia's meeting in June.

There was discussion about possibly connecting the IGGI meeting and the parliamentary initiative proposed by Lord Avebury. Jan and Carmel agreed to keep in touch about this.

The groups agreed to contact the minister of development, or the official representing their government, in advance of the IGGI meeting, in order to make their criticisms known to him or her.

Kris told the meeting that some parliamentarians in Holland are considering the possibility of holding a 'counter-conference' to IGGI, which would take place either in Holland, or, if this alternative was supported, in another European capital. The meeting had no clear recommendation on this matter.

The Arms Trade with Indonesia

It was agreed that a 'parliamentary group against arms sales to Indonesia' should be formed.

Tapol in Britain, Iepala in Spain, the Association for Endangered People in West Germany (and also the Swedish group) agreed to write to MP's to ask them to join. After an association has been formed officially, it could lobby its own and other European governments over arms sales.

Tapol, the Indonesia Committee in Holland, Iepala and the Association for Endangered People believe they can persuade MP's to join.

It was agreed that organisations like the British Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) should be invited to give support.

Tapol undertook to write more articles about arms sales to Indonesia. Klemens agreed to send Carmel a copy of the American Control and Disarmament Report for 1972-82.

Pacific Contacts

It was suggested that solidarity groups should make contact with the representatives of Pacific states and invite them to meetings, and that Fretilin might do likewise.

Visit of Perez de Cuellar to London, Jan 21-24 1985

During the week-end, the meeting learned that Mr Perez de Cuellar will visit London, on his way to Indonesia and other SE Asian countries. The groups agreed to send a letter to him, through CIIR, which was drafted and shown to those still present. CIIR agreed to make sure the letter (a copy of which is enclosed) reached Mr de Cuellar.

Communique

A communique was prepared, approved by the meeting, and sent the same evening by phone to the Portuguese press. CIIR agreed to make the communique public (and did so by telephoning the major press agencies on Monday 14th). A copy of the communique is enclosed.

General Secretary **Miss Mildred Nevile** MBE

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His Excellency Mr Perez de Cuellar,

The United Nations Information Office
20 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6 LB

Tuesday January 15 1985

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of your visit to London, we would like to draw to your attention the conclusions of a meeting of European organisations concerned by the situation in East Timor, which was held in London on January 12 and 13 and attended by representatives from organisations in Portugal, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

We naturally discussed the efforts which you are making to seek a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in East Timor, in line with General Assembly Resolution 37/30 of 1982.

All the organisations present were concerned that until now consultations have involved only the governments of Portugal and Indonesia. They strongly supported the view that, in order to achieve a genuine act of self-determination in East Timor, negotiations must involve the people of the territory, who have continuously shown their opposition to the Indonesian presence.

They also felt that a ceasefire and normal access to development agencies and foreign observers are both essential, and that without them the people of East Timor will not be in a position to express their point of view freely.

We remain deeply preoccupied by the persistent reports of human rights violations in the territory and by the fact that the relief work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations continues to be severely restricted.

During the discussions which you will be holding with the Indonesian government, we request you to reaffirm these criteria, which follow from the principles of international law which have constantly guided the international community in its declarations concerning East Timor.

Yours respectfully,

Miss Mildred Nevile MBE
General Secretary

enclosed: A list of the participating organisations.

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF EAST TIMOR

Recognising that the territory of East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia since December 1975, inflicting extreme loss of life and destruction;

Recognising that the Indonesian policy to isolate East Timor prevents the ICRC and other relief and development agencies from reaching those in need, and denies the international community opportunities to assess the wishes of the people independently;

Condemning the human rights violations committed since 1975, as reported by Church leaders in East Timor and by independent human rights organisations;

Recognising that the East Timorese have been denied their right to self-determination;

Welcoming, finally, UN General Assembly Resolution 37/30 which asked the UN Secretary General "to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem", and acknowledging the steps which have been taken to bring Portugal and Indonesia into negotiations;

WE AFFIRM that negotiations will not lead to a just settlement unless they:

1. Involve representatives of the East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation;

2. Secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination;

3. Provide internationally acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and to independent visitors, journalists and diplomats;

4. Include an act of self-determination, which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people.

We commend all international initiatives which observe these principles, and will call upon our government to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms.

SIGNED:

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE LONDON MEETING IN SUPPORT OF EAST TIMOR
JANUARY 12-13 1985

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
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PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON EAST TIMOR TO CONTINUE

Representatives of development agencies, church groups, human rights and solidarity groups from nine European countries met in London on 12-13 January for the fourth annual meeting of groups working on East Timor, the former Portuguese colony which has been under Indonesian military occupation since December 1975.

An analysis of the situation presented to the meeting made it clear that in an effort to overcome the continuing resistance of the Timorese people the Indonesian military are extending their counter-insurgency programme with the construction of 400 new strategic hamlets. These are designed to cut off the resistance forces from the rest of the Timorese population and deny them the necessities of life. Other elements of the programme are an enforced birth control programme among a population already decimated by nearly 10 years of war and hardship and the increasing implantation of settlers from Indonesian territory. The meeting also noted with concern that the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross has recently confirmed that East Timor remains one of the areas of the world where the ICRC is prevented from giving relief to victims of military conflict.

Another ground for concern is that the negotiations currently in progress between Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the United Nations, do not involve representatives of the people of Timor. The meeting reaffirmed that no settlement of the East Timor problem will work unless it has the support of the people of the territory.

The meeting agreed plans to continue and extend international work to secure the human and political rights of the people of East Timor. Among actions planned for the immediate future are submissions to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in February, a campaign among European parliamentarians, pressure on the IGGI group of Western aid donors to Indonesia, protests against the sale of arms to Indonesia, and an extension of information work among church groups.

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